

REMARKS

Reexamination of the above mentioned application is hereby requested in view of the above amendments and remarks which follow.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 through 5 and 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe et al. in view of DE 3629740. The Examiner indicated that Watanabe discloses a base spring having a box-like backup spring 10 having a divided overlap fourth wall with a connecting lug formed on one wall section and a recessed formed on the other wall section, and that the wall sections overlap over the full length of the backup spring. Applicants disagree with the characterization of Watanabe as given by the Examiner.

Rather, Applicants believe that the Watanabe terminal as shown in any of Figures 1 through 4 shows a one-piece terminal, not a socket consisting of a discrete backup spring and a base spring. As shown in Figure 4, Watanabe is stamped from a single sheet of material and folded into the configuration having a cross section of Figure 3. It is clear from Figure 3 that the contact parts are formed from reverse bent contact portion 12 in combination with the projection of 13a. Thus, there is no backing up of these spring parts as is provided by a discrete backup spring. Rather, Watanabe only shows a base spring. Applicants have amended claim 1 to indicate that the backup spring is discrete to the base spring.

Taking into account that the Examiner admits that Watanabe fails to disclose two lugs, Watanabe does not disclose or suggest a socket contact composed of a backup spring and a base spring, where the backup spring is secured by means of two lugs passing through recesses and being bent over wherein two wall sections overlap over the full length of the backup spring. In contrast to the Examiner's point of view, a skilled person would have had no reason to modify the base spring socket contact of Watanabe et al. in accordance with certain teaching shown in an additionally cited DE-740. According to Watanabe, Figures 5 and 6 disclose prior art according to which a projection 113a is formed at each of the two opposing edges of the upper wall 113. Thus, to avoid a deformation of the projections 113a (see column 4 of Watanabe), Watanabe provides for overlapping upper wall portions, where a projection 13b is engaged in an engaging hole 17, as shown in Figures 1 and 4 of Watanabe. Therefore, a skilled person has no reason for modifying this structure in view of DE-740.

The Examiner also rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe et al. in view of DE-740 and further in view of D'Urso. Given the flawed

characterization of Watanabe et al., it is not clear how the incorporation of the forward portion wall 14 would add to obviating claim 8, indicating that the upper wall section of the backup spring has a material thickness of the lower wall section.

The Examiner also rejection claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe et al. in further view of DE-740 and further in view of Seko. Given the fact that neither Watanabe nor Seko show discrete backup springs, it is not clear what the addition of Seko adds to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

The Examiner also rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of DE-740 and further in view of Myer. The Examiner added Myer for its polarizing member 27, as this did not exist in any of the base references. Once again, given the fact that neither Watanabe nor Myer show discrete backup springs, it is not clear how the addition of a polarizing member to the base contact not to a backup spring obviates claim 9.

The Examiner also rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of DE-740 and further in view of Egenolf. The Examiner indicated that Watanabe does not have the folding lugs on opposing second and third walls of the backup spring, but that Egenolf shows folding legs 77 and 79. Once again, given the fact that Watanabe does not show a discrete backup spring, it is not clear how the addition of the folding legs 77 and 79 to the base spring of Watanabe would obviate claim 10.

The Examiner also rejected claims 11 through 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakuta et al. in view of German '047. Once again, the Examiner mischaracterizes Kakuta as having a base spring and a box-like backup spring having a divided overlapped fourth wall. Kakuta does not show a contact having a discrete backup spring, but rather is almost identical to Watanabe, in that it has a reversely bent contact portion at 4, and an opposed contact portion formed in the upper and opposed wall. Notwithstanding that Kakuta does not have a backup spring at all, the Examiner points to German utility model '047 for two connecting points, that is, lugs 55 and 56. However, these lugs are on the bottom side of the backup spring as shown in Figure 23, rather than on two overlapping top walls. As shown in Figure 19, no top walls exist at all, rather the walls 21 and 22 are folded inwardly, rather than forming overlapping wall portions with two connecting lugs connecting the walls. Thus, even if the Examiner is correct, and that

Kakuta together with German utility model '047 are combinable, they still do not obviate to the structure of claims 11 through 13.

Applicants however have amended claim 11 to indicate that the backup spring is discrete to the base spring part, and that the back up spring is comprised a metal different from the base spring part. No such teaching is shown in Kakuta.

The Examiner indicated that with respect to claim 14, Kakuta discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for recesses formed as U-shaped recesses. The Examiner indicated that it would have been obvious to modify the structure of Kakuta by including the U-shaped recess. Given the mischaracterization of Kakuta, it would not be obvious in light of Kakuta to modify any of Kakuta's structure to form a U-shaped recess in the backup spring wall.

The Examiner rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakuta and German utility model '047, further in view of Seko. As mentioned above, as neither Kakuta nor Seko show discrete backup springs, it is not clear how Seko's notches in combination with Kakuta and German utility model '047 would obviate claim 16.

The Examiner rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakuta and German utility model '047 in view of Buddrus et al. Once again, as Kakuta does not show a discrete backup spring, it is not clear how the addition of Buddrus having clamp 57 would obviate claim 17.

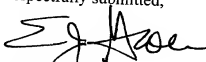
The Examiner rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakuta et al. and German utility model '047, and further in view of DE-740. The Examiner indicated that it would be obvious to modify Kakuta to include the structured crank of DE-740. Given that Kakuta does not show a backup spring at all, the addition of DE-740 does not obviate claim 18.

The Examiner rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakuta et al. and German utility model '047, and further in view of Myer. As Myer does not have a backup spring at all, the addition of Myer with Kakuta, where Kakuta does not have a backup spring, does not obviate claim 19.

The Examiner also rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakuta et al. and German utility model '047, and further in view of Egenolf. Since Kakuta does not have a backup spring, the addition of Egenolf to Kakuta could not possibly obviate claim 20.

For all of the above-mentioned amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that claims 1 through 20 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request early passage thereof. If necessary to effect a timely response, please consider this paper a petition for extension of time sufficient to make this response timely and charge any fees due therefore, and charge any other fees due and credit any overpayment of fees to Baker & Daniels Deposit Account No. 02-0387 (72262.20009).

Respectfully submitted,

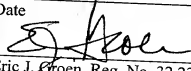


Eric J. Groen
Registration No. 32,230
Attorney for Applicant
BAKER & DANIELS
205 West Jefferson Blvd., Suite 250
South Bend, IN 46601
Tel: (574)234-4149
Fax: (574)239-1900

Enclosure: Postcard

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March 31, 2003
Date



Eric J. Groen, Reg. No. 32,230

COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A socket contact ~~{consisting of a backup}~~ **[comprising a base]** spring and a ~~{base}~~ **[discrete backup]** spring, said backup spring enclosing the base spring in box-like manner with a first wall, a second wall, a third wall, and divided fourth wall, and with at least two connecting lugs being formed on one wall section for connecting the wall sections of the divided fourth wall to each other in positive manner, said connecting lugs being arranged in the front and rear portions of the wall section as seen in the direction of insertion of the socket contact, the other wall section is formed with a recess for each connecting lug and said connecting lugs are passed through the recesses and bent over, and the two wall sections overlap over the full length of the backup spring.

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2. (Original) The socket contact of claim 1, wherein a lower wall section and an upper wall section are formed by said overlapping of the wall sections of the backup spring, and the connecting lugs are formed on the lower wall section and the recesses are formed on the upper wall section.

3. (Original) The socket contact of claim 2, wherein at least one recess is formed as an elongate hole in the upper wall section.

4. (Original) The socket contact of claim 2, wherein at least one recess is formed as U-shaped recess on the terminal-side or contact-side edge of the upper wall section.

5. (Original) The socket contact of claim 1, wherein the connecting lugs, after being bent over, are deformed such that they are supported on the walls of the recesses.

6. (Original) The socket contact of claim 5, wherein the deformation of the connecting lugs is effected by press-fitting or introducing one or more notches on the upper side of the connecting lugs.

7. (Original) The socket contact of claim 1, wherein a locking hook extending in the longitudinal direction of the backup spring is cut out and bent outwardly from the first wall.

8. (Original) The socket contact of claim 2, wherein the upper wall section, in front of said overlapping portion, has a crank with the material thickness of the lower wall section.

9. (Original) The socket contact of claim 2, wherein the lower wall section is formed with a polarizing member.

10. (Original) The socket contact of claim 1, wherein, for mounting the backup spring on the base spring, there are formed folding lugs on the opposing second and third walls of the backup spring, with said folding lugs being adapted to be bent inwardly and engaging in corresponding openings on the base spring.

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(continued)

11. (Currently Amended) A socket contact ~~{consisting of a backup}~~ **[comprising a base]** spring and a ~~{base}~~ **[discrete backup]** spring, said backup spring **[consisting of a different metal than said base spring and]** enclosing the base spring in box-like manner with a first wall, a second wall, a third wall, and a divided fourth wall comprised of overlapping wall portions, and with at least two connecting lugs being formed on one of said overlapping wall portions and complementary recesses being formed in said other overlapping wall portion, said connecting lugs being passed through the recesses and bent over for connecting the wall sections of the divided fourth wall to each other in positive manner, said connecting lugs being arranged in the front and rear portions of the wall section as seen in the direction of insertion of the socket contact.

12. (Original) The socket contact of claim 11, wherein a lower wall section and an upper wall section are formed by said overlapping of the wall sections of the backup spring, and the connecting lugs are formed on the lower wall section and the recesses are formed on the upper wall section.

13. (Original) The socket contact of claim 12, wherein at least one recess is formed as an elongate hole in the upper wall section.

14. (Original) The socket contact of claim 12, wherein at least one recess is formed as U-shaped recess on the terminal-side or contact-side edge of the upper wall section.

15. (Original) The socket contact of claim 11, wherein the connecting lugs, after being bent over, are deformed such that they are supported on the walls having the recesses.

16. (Original) The socket contact of claim 15, wherein the deformation of the connecting lugs is effected by press-fitting or introducing one or more notches on the upper side of the connecting lugs.

17. (Original) The socket contact of claim 11, wherein a locking hook extending in the longitudinal direction of the backup spring is cut out and bent outwardly from the first wall.

18. (Original) The socket contact of claim 12, wherein the upper wall section, in front of said overlapping portion, has a crank with the material thickness of the lower wall section.

19. (Original) The socket contact of claim 12, wherein the lower wall section is formed with a polarizing member.

20. (Original) The socket contact of claim 11, wherein, for mounting the backup spring on the base spring, there are formed folding lugs on the opposing second and third walls of the backup spring, with said folding lugs being adapted to be bent inwardly and engaging in corresponding openings on the base spring.
